

AUSTRAL HEPATICAE XV.

BREVIANTHACEAE, FAM. NOV. AND BREVIANTHUS, GEN. NOV. FROM TASMANIA \*

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The Suborder Geocalycineae (Jungermanniales) contains a number of diverse elements, among them the rather isolated family Chonecoleaceae Schust. Allied to this family, however, is a new, monotypic, quite derived family, Brevianthaceae, which contains Brevianthus, a new genus. Both are described below; a detailed treatment, accompanied by illustrations, will appear at a later date.

BREVIANTHACEAE, Engel & Schust., family nov.

Rami intercalares laterales; stolones et flagellae nulli. Rhizoidea ventraliter dispersa. Folia caulina admodum succuba, indivisa. Foliorum cellulae trigonis magnis prominentibus confluentibus instructae. Amphigastria nulla. Androecia in ramulis brevissimis determinatis lateralibus intercalaribus inserta. Gynoecia in ramulis brevissimis lateralibus intercalaribus inserta; perianthia late ovoidea. Capsula plus minusve globosa, valvulis 3-4-stratosis instructa.

Typus: Brevianthus Engel & Schust.

Brevianthus Engel & Schust. gen. nov.

Planta dioica, prostrata, obscure albiviridis. Caulis cortex simplex e cellulis subaequalibus valde incrassatis efformatus. Rhizoidea incolorata, non septata. Folia caulina libera, fortiter erecta, concava, late ovata vel oblata, ad marginem hyalina, integra, apice rotundata. Foliorum cellulae abaxialiter intramarginales incrassatae protuberantiis tholiformibus vel mamilliformibus instructae et papillis cuticularibus hyalinis dense vestitae; cellulae marginales 1-2(-3) simplices, protuberantiis destitutis.

Androecia minuta, capitata vel breviter spicata; ♂ bractae valde ventricosae; antheridia solitaria, pedicello uniseriato instructa. Perianthia aliquantum bilateraliter compressa, plicis paucis latis, ad orem lata, laciniato-lobata. Setae in sectione transversali cellulis 4-5 in diametro, omnibus sub-

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\* The senior author would like to thank Dr. Timothy Plowman for assistance with the Latin diagnoses.

aequimagnis constitutae. Sporae irregulariter tuberculatae vel baculatae. Elateres tortuosi, bispirales.

Typus: Jackiella flava Grolle.

The following is the only species which belongs here; it is endemic to Tasmania:

Brevianthus flavus (Grolle) Engel & Schust., comb. nov.

Basionym: Jackiella flava Grolle, J. Hattori Bot. Lab. 33: 222. 1970.

Holotype: Tasmania, Recherche, Catamaran, 14 January 1911, W. A. Weymouth 1232 as Jamesoniella occlusa (NY!).